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S E C R E T DJIBOUTI 000208

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS/ICI/CI AND DS/IP/AF  
ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA FOR RSO  
CJTF-HOA FOR J2, J2X AND MARCENT S-2

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/28/2029

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI: POSSIBLE CI INCIDENT

REF: 04 STATE 102336

Classified By: RSO MARC RAMOS FOR REASON 1.4 (C,D)

11. (S/NF) On Thursday February 24, 2005, Embassy Djibouti received an envelope from the Chinese Embassy in Djibouti containing a business proposition on behalf of the Chinese construction company "Chine Dji-Fu Sarl (formerly CSCEC)". In the proposition, the Chinese construction company briefly outlines its history in Djibouti and includes a detailed pamphlet of construction projects it has undertaken in the past 20 years. The business proposition is aimed at providing similar services to the U.S. Military located at Camp Lemonier.

12. (S/NF) On Saturday February 26, 2005 at approximately 1000 hours, a man of Asian decent drove up and parked his vehicle at the North end perimeter of the U.S. Embassy compound. After a few minutes the man exited his vehicle and proceeded to the Jersey barrier located in the middle of the street and began taking measurements of the barrier. Upon noticing this odd behavior, Embassy guards and Host Nation Police detained the individual. The Embassy guard tried to speak to the man in English and French, but the man only used sign language and Chinese claiming that he did not understand the Guard. The man presented an identification card from the seaport of Djibouti with the organization denoted as "CSCEC" and his name "Zhu Hanzhou". RSO responded, but was unable to communicate with the man. RSO then contacted the director of the company, Mr. Zhang Jian, who arrived shortly thereafter. The Director corroborated that the man worked with his company. The Director stated that the construction company was doing a security upgrade project for the sea port and that the individual was directed to take measurements of the barriers located at the Embassy perimeter as examples. RSO explained to the director that the Embassy is not to be used as a "display case" of security features and that they should seek their information elsewhere. The Director apologized several times and assured RSO that this sort of incident would not occur a second time and departed the area.

13. (S/NF) RSO Comments: In and of itself, neither the business proposal nor the barrier incident appear to be of any intelligence consequence to the Embassy or the U.S. Military and individually are not out of the ordinary incidents. However, the near term association of both occurrences is a strange coincidence that merits scrutiny. CSCEC has been in Djibouti and in business for over 20 years, but it has not been until the arrival of the U.S. Military that they have shown interest in the prospect of providing construction services to the USG. It must be noted that China maintains strong diplomatic relations with Djibouti and is a major aid donor. The past two years has seen an increase of Chinese ex-patriates residing in Djibouti for various reasons (Diplomats, construction companies, automotive and electrical technicians, etc.)

14. (U) POC is RSO Marc Ramos at 253-35-39-95 or 253-35-09-49 (secure).

RAGSDALE